

Dear Patriot,

Greetings to our Constituents, fellow Floridians, and all Americans.

Today(Monday): My first sponsored legislation submission, H.R. 1246, - to cut the Defense Printing Budget by 10 percent- came up for vote under Suspension of the Rule. I was on CSPAN approximately 1:30 pm. And it passed unanimously!

[Please watch my statement on the Floor of the House.](#)

Now on to the business of the past week:

Last Tuesday, the House approved H.R. 839 by a vote of 252-170. The bill would end the Home Affordable Modification Program and prevent \$29.9B of TARP funding obligated to the Treasury Department from being spent on a program that has been singled out by the Special Inspector General for TARP, as well as the Congressional Oversight Panel, for a slow uptake.

The Treasury Department's failure to set and monitor metrics for the program's success has also been criticized. The program has fallen well short of the administration's goal of helping 3-4 million struggling homeowners. 522,000 permanent modifications were in place to date under HAMP, costing taxpayers \$840M.

On Wednesday, the House approved H.R. 471, a bill to reauthorize the District of Columbia Opportunity Scholarship Program (DC-OSP) by a vote of 225-195. Originally authorized in 2003, DC-OSP provides low-income students an opportunity to receive a scholarship to attend a DC private school of their parent's choice (\$8K/elementary school and \$12K/High School). H.R. 471 reauthorizes the program at \$60M/year for 5 years, which is more than \$15M/year less than the program is currently receiving. The most recent impact report of the program shows a 91 percent graduation rate for students who received scholarships compared to 70 percent for those who did not. The graduation rate for DC public schools is 59.5 percent.

On Friday, the House approved H.R. 658, FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2011, by a vote of 223-196. H.R. 658 would reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) operations and programs for four years, including remainder of FY 2011 through FY 2014. In addition, the bill makes a number of policy changes, including a repeal of the National Mediation Board (NMB) rule allowing airline employees to unionize without a majority vote. The bill would phase out funding for the Essential Air Service (EAS) program and reduce overall spending relative to the current spending baseline by \$4 billion.

On Friday, the House also passed, narrowly, by 221-202 H.R. 1255, the Government Shutdown Prevention Act. The main reason I supported this legislation was the stipulation that if the government shuts down for more than 24 hours, Members of Congress and the President will not be paid for those days...there are far more "essential" persons. And that is why I was an original cosponsor of legislation H.R. 1297 - Ensuring Pay for our Military Act, and participated in a press conference on the introduction of this bill on Friday. We must ensure that our Men

and Women in uniform are not used as political pawns, and shall receive their justly earned pay.

The week also included three very important hearings;

- Wednesday: The Small Business Committee to hear testimony on reducing federal agency overreach by modernizing the Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. I was honored to host Mr. Rich Draper and his wife, CEO/Co-Founder, The Ice Cream Club, Inc of Boynton Beach. Mr Draper addressed the over-regulatory environment pervading the private sector and its adverse affects upon his business, which has been in existence for 29 years.

- Thursday the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) heard testimony from Secretary of Defense Gates and Chairman of Joints Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mullen on Operation Odyssey Dawn...US military operations in Libya. I was truly disturbed at the lack of clear mission or strategic objective direction. The "intended" mission of a no-fly zone to protect innocent civilians morphed into an air war focused on, interdiction and close air support against Libyan government ground forces. However, no one could articulate exactly who the "rebels" are or their leadership. I left the hearing clearly disgusted with the Obama administration's foray into what seems to be a modern version of the Bay of Pigs.

- Friday the HASC Subcommittee on Military Personnel heard testimony on the implementation plans for the repeal of "Don't Ask Don't Tell" law and policies. Before us, sat Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel Major General (USMC, Ret) Dr. Stanley and Director of the Joint Staff. My concern centers on forcing the U.S. Military, whose mission is to fight and win wars, to assimilate its culture to individual behaviors. When I hear other members of the subcommittee, "liberals" attempts to parallel the goal of the law with the integration of blacks and females in our Armed Services, well, I shake my head at the absurdity of such claims. Race and gender are not behaviors. Therefore, I wonder what comes next for our Military from the social engineers of the liberal progressive agenda?

Also, one must be concerned about the pressures placed upon leaders to implement this repeal and not challenge any issues they may encounter. We saw the ill effects of allowing political correctness in the military with the Major Nidal Hassan episode. How much influence will outside special interest groups have on this process? How will entire leadership chains of command be affected by watchdog groups and interventions?

We are a Nation who has committed its most precious resource, our Sons and Daughters into several combat theaters of operation. Now is not the time to reintroduce the "sensitivity training" which I was forced to implement from the Clinton administration.

Highlights of the Week:

- Tuesday, my Cousin Nina who works at Walter Reed Army Medical Center dropped by to say howdy and we discussed our Wounded Warriors. Met with Gold Cast Beverage Distributors, and Double Eagle Distributing, Inc to discuss legislative agendas. Met with the Head of the Israel Missile Defense Organization.

- Wednesday, attended the National Urban League Congressional Black Caucus breakfast, briefly chatted with Patrick Franklin, President and CEO, Urban League of Palm Beach County. Attended HASC hearing with the Commanders of US Southern Command, US Northern Command, and US European Command. Held a meeting with Lieutenant General Mulholland, Commander of US Army Special Operations Command...what a doggone Warrior! Stopped by the Kurdish-American Congressional Caucus reception...nice visit with Iraqi President Jalal Talabani's Son and Wife. Best part of the day was hosting young 12 year old Pinchus Roberts on the House Floor for several votes. His Dad, Dr. Rich Roberts watched from the House gallery. Day ended with my attending the NRCC March dinner where Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey was keynote speaker.

- Thursday, attended a Freshman GOP members meeting with former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. Was honored to speak at the Tea Party's Continuing Revolution Rally...a take-off on "continuing resolution." Met with Broward Mayor Sue Gunzberger in reference to legislative priorities for my home County. Met with Hasibullah Rosha, who spent a year of High School in Ft. Lauderdale's Youth and Exchange Study program...he is from Afghanistan and was just wowed to see my certificates from the Afghan Army. The evening wrapped up with my being the keynote speaker for the 2011 District of Columbia Republican Committee's Lincoln-Douglass Dinner...I spoke on "Restoring a Legacy."

- Friday, started with 0730 breakfast with Secretary of the Air Force Donley and Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Schwartz at the Pentagon. That evening I flew from Washington DC to Dallas, Texas.

- Saturday, after an early morning North Texas run, had several meetings and BBQ event with about 65 individuals at Sonny's BBQ in Dallas. Spoke to the Park City Republican Women and Founders Forum...then that evening addressed some 900 at the Collin County Lincoln Day dinner and the message centered on "Making a Stand".... funny thing, the event was in Allen, Texas at the Allen Events Center....how cool, huh? And I was presented with a Texas State flag, a resolution, and made an Honorary Texan....as well, was reunited with an ole Army Buddy Lieutenat Colonel (Ret.) Brian Birdwell who is now a Texas State Senator. Special hat tip goes out to the Collin County, Texas Republican Committee for inviting me to their Lincoln Day dinner. I want to thank my dear friends Simeon and Alma Terry and David and Donna Gamble for hosting me.

- Sunday, addressed a Dallas Republican Jewish Coalition group breakfast before boarding a plane and heading back to South Florida. Attended the First Inaugural Chabad of East Boca Gala Dinner where I was honored with the "Defender of Israel" Award... a lovely sculpted Lion, The Lion of Judah...special thanks to Rabbi Ruvi New and his wife Ahuda.....and to the South Florida Jewish Community.

In conclusion, we have another busy week ahead of us as we go forward confronting our fiscal crisis. Rest assured we shall maintain our principles and hold the high ground.

Steadfast and Loyal,

Allen